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39,289

Reg. No.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant : Tracy C. Slemker
Serial No. : 08/947,668
Filed : October 9, 1997
Title : VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR A PROSTHETIC LIMB
Docket : 534128-002-C1
Art Unit : 3308

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Examiner's attention is directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-FB-A280, copies of which are attached.

European Patent EP 019612 is not in English. A translated abstract, obtained from the DIALOG database reads as follows: "The prosthesis with a bowl shaped stump bed and knee sides is fitted with inflatable air pads inside each knee side and on the rear of the bed inwall. This applies controlled pressure above the knee and on the calf to locate the prosthesis. All pads are inflated by a valve controlled bellows connected to a pressure chamber below the bed complete with vent valve. Vent spaces with their own valves over the chamber connect to the pads and otherwise via nonreturn valves to the chamber. The chamber and vent spaces are assembled as an adaptor and separated by a partition. The spaces are sector shaped, with the bellows fitted at the base of the adaptor." This reference is considered relevant because of the use of a bellows to force air into a prosthetic limb knee pad.

Soviet Patent 1598999 is not in English. This reference is considered relevant because, according to the translated abstract attached thereto, it discloses: ". . . elastic cushion (2) . . . has spherically concave surface for, spherical hollow (5) at distal end face (6) and through apertures (3). Concentric slot (7) is designed in distal end face (6) of elastic cushion (2), housing ring (8)."

Soviet Patent 311633 is not in English. This reference is considered relevant because according to the translated abstract attached thereto, it discloses: "This is a vacuum valve for a limb prosthesis comprising body, ring and diaphragm."

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. §120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 08/516,557 filed August 18, 1995. The following references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application and, therefore, are not required to be provided in this application:

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|------------------|
| US | 5,376,129 | 12/94 | Faulkner et al. |
| US | 5,163,965 | 11/92 | Rasmusson et al. |
| US | 5,139,523 | 8/92 | Paton et al. |
| US | 4,283,800 | 8/81 | Wilson |
| US | 2,808,593 | 10/57 | Anderson |
| US | 2,790,180 | 4/57 | Hauser |
| US | 2,671,225 | 11/51 | Schoene et al. |
| US | 2,696,010 | 12/54 | Galdik |
| US | 2,533,404 | 12/50 | Sharp et al. |
| US | 2,530,285 | 11/50 | Catranis |
| US | 980,457 | 1/11 | Toles |

WO 84/00881 3/84

UK 2,069,847 9/81

UK 2,087,727 6/82


ENDOLITE literature, *"The Endolite Flexible
Socket Valve"*

United State Manufacturing literature, *"SUPER
SEAL Valve System"*

The ENDOLITE and U.S. Manufacturing literature do not contain publication dates, but are hereby admitted to be prior art references.

It is to be understood that the present submission of art is in no way intended to be a waiver of any arguments or defenses available to the applicant under the rules of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the statutes of the United States. No fee is required. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 20-0809.

Respectfully submitted,



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